GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHISM-BASED CULTURE AND HERITAGE TOURISM
GADDAM GANGA REDDY;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to promote Buddhism-based culture and heritage tourism;

(b) if so, the names of the States, where such tourism will be developed;

(c) whether a special task force under the Director-General of tourism has been set up to develop such specialised tourism activity;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the task force in this regard; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government as well as the financial assistance being provided for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.262 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.200
REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHISM-BASED CULTURE AND HERITAGE TOURISM

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): While Buddhism based culture and heritage tourism is encourage in all the States which have Buddhist Monuments, it was decided to celebrate Bauddha Mahotsavs in the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal in the first instance. These are in addition to the Baudha Mahotsav already being celebrated in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(c): A Task force had been set up under the Convenorship of the Director General of Tourism for formulating the concept and suggesting modalities for celebrating Bauddha Mahotsav at Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling, Manali and Leh (Ladakh).

(d): The Task Force recommended the locations and dates of the Bauddha Mahotsavs as under:

(i) Jammu & Kashmir (Deskit-July 24-25, 2001)

(ii) Himachal Pradesh (Kalpa-August 11-12, 2001)

(iii) Arunachal Pradesh (Tawang-October 6-7, 2001)

(iv) West Bengtal (Jaigaon-November 24-25, 2001)

It also recommended the proposed programme of celebrations.

(e): The recommendations of the Task Force have been made in consultation with the concerned State Governments and have been accepted for implementation. A sum of Rs.5.00 lakhs is to be released to each of the concerned States for this purpose as Central assistance.